



MEDIA ADVISORY

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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JOHN CHIANG
Chairman, BOE

RAMON J. HIRSIG
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JOHN CHIANG, CHAIR, CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
HOSTS MARCH 2 FREE CALIFORNIA TAX AMNESTY SEMINAR**

John Chiang, Chair of the California State Board of Equalization will join with the California Association of Black Lawyers, the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, and the John M. Langston Bar Association for a **Free California Tax Amnesty Seminar**.

**Wednesday, March 2, 2005
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza Community Room
3650 West Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90008**

Program speakers include staff representatives from the Board of Equalization and Franchise Tax Board. According to Chairman Chiang, "The Tax Amnesty Program gives California taxpayers an opportunity to remedy their past tax filing indiscretions if they understated their income, overstated a deduction, or failed to file a tax return at all."

Eligible individual or business taxpayers who owe past-due income, franchise, or sales and use taxes to the State of California may be able to avoid most penalties, fees, and possible prosecution by participating in the California Tax Amnesty program. To participate, interested taxpayers must complete and submit an amnesty application to the Franchise Tax Board or Board of Equalization by March 31, 2005.

"Participation in tax amnesty gives taxpayers satisfaction in knowing they have contributed to the education of California's children, public safety and public health programs," Chiang said.

Please visit www.taxes.ca.gov for more information on the tax amnesty program.

Chairman John Chiang, of Los Angeles, was elected to his first term as Fourth District Member on the State Board of Equalization in 1998 and re-elected in 2002. He was named Chair of the Board in December 2004. He is also a member of the Franchise Tax Board.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax commission. The Board collects nearly \$42 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property tax.

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